

PURCHASE OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR PARK PURPOSES BY
THE CITY OF RED BLUFF, CALIF.

DECEMBER 20, 1924.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. RAKER, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the
following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9688]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 9688) granting public lands to the city of Red Bluff, Calif., for public park purposes, having considered the same, report it herewith to the House with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The bill, omitting the title and enacting clause, is as follows:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to issue patent to the city of Red Bluff, California, in trust, for public park purposes, for the following tract of land, to wit:

The north half of the northeast quarter of section 22, township 29 north, range 2 east, Mount Diablo meridian, Tehama County, California, upon payment by said city at the rate of \$1.25 per acre, subject to all valid existing bona fide right or claim initiated under the land laws of the United States: *Provided*, That there shall be reserved to the United States all oil, coal, and other mineral deposits that may be found in the land so granted and all necessary use of the land for extracting the same; that the grant hereby made shall be subject to the provisions of section 24 of the Federal water power act (Forty-first United States Statutes, pages 1063-1077, approved June 10, 1920): *Provided further*, That said city shall not have the right to sell or convey the land herein granted, or any part thereof, or to devote the same to any other purpose than as hereinbefore described; and that if the said land shall not be used as a public park the same shall revert to the United States: *And provided further*, That the patent issued under the provisions of this act shall expressly reserve all the rights in the United States as specified herein.

The purpose of the bill and the character of the land in question, which was further shown to the committee by the statements of persons familiar with the ground, are set forth in the following reports of the various departments. The bill was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior by the chairman of the Committee on the Public Lands and thereafter report was made by the Secretary of the

Interior to the Committee on the Public Lands, which report is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, July 26, 1924.

Hon. N. J. SINNOTT,
Chairman Committee on the Public Lands, House of Representatives.

MY DEAR MR. SINNOTT: I am in receipt by your reference of June 7, 1924, of H. R. 9688, with request for report on same, entitled "A bill granting public lands to the city of Red Bluff, Calif., for a public park."

The bill proposes to grant to the city of Red Bluff, Calif., 80 acres of land in sec. 22, T. 29 N., R. 2 E., M. D. M., upon payment of \$1.25 per acre for public park purposes. The grant is made subject to any valid existing bona fide right or claim initiated under the land laws of the United States, and contains the usual nonalienation and reversionary provisos and reserves to the United States all oil, coal, or other mineral deposits found at any time in the land, and all necessary use of the land for extracting the same.

The land is included in power site reserve No. 364 of May 27, 1913. The bill provides that "the grant hereby made shall be subject to the provisions of section 24 of the Federal water power act." (41 U. S. Stat., pp. 1063-1077, approved June 10, 1920.) This department has no objection to offer to the passage of the bill.

Very truly yours,

E. C. FINNEY, *Acting Secretary.*

The bill was referred to the Department of Agriculture and thereafter that department submitted its report, which report is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, June 12, 1924.

Hon. N. J. SINNOTT,
*Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. SINNOTT: Reference is made to your request of June 7 for a report upon the bill (H. R. 9688) granting public lands to the city of Red Bluff, Calif., for a public park.

The lands proposed to be granted by this measure are not within a national forest and are not otherwise under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture. For this reason the department has no recommendations to make, but would suggest that the bill be referred to the Secretary of the Interior for report, since he has jurisdiction over the public domain.

Sincerely yours,

HENRY C. WALLACE, *Secretary.*

The proposed legislation has been submitted to the Federal Power Commission and the commission has indicated its consent in the following letter to the chairman of the Committee on the Public Lands:

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION,
Washington, June 10, 1924.

Hon. N. J. SINNOTT,
*Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. SINNOTT: In compliance with your letter of June 7, 1924, I have the honor to submit the following report touching the matter of H. R. 9688, Sixty-eighth Congress, "A bill granting public lands to the city of Red Bluff, Calif., for a public park."

The lands described in the bill are the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 22, T. 29 N., R. 2 E., M. D. M., Tehama County, Calif., which are in reservation for power purposes. By the terms of the bill the lands can not be disposed of by the city or put to any other use than as a public park, and the bill expressly provides that the grant "shall be subject to the provisions of section 24 of the Federal water power act."

These provisions appear amply sufficient to protect water-power interests and no objection, therefore, is seen to the passage of the bill.

Very truly yours,

O. C. MERRILL, *Executive Secretary.*

The executive secretary of the Federal Power Commission, on June 7, 1924, submitted the following letter to the Representative of the second district of California, which in turn was submitted to the committee, and is as follows:

FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION,
Washington, June 7, 1924.

Hon. JOHN E. RAKER,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. RAKER: I have received your letter of June 5, 1924, and its inclosure, H. R. 9688, Sixty-eighth Congress, "A bill granting public lands to the city of Red Bluff, Calif., for a public park." The lands described in the bill are the N. $\frac{1}{2}$ NE. $\frac{1}{4}$, sec. 22, T. 29 N., R. 2 E., M. D. M., Tehema County, Calif., which are in reservation for power purposes.

By the terms of the bill the lands can not be disposed of by the city or put to any other use than as a public park, and the bill expressly provides that the grant "shall be subject to the provisions of section 24 of the Federal water power act."

So far as I am advised, I see no objection to a favorable report on the bill and I shall take pleasure in having the matter submitted to the commission for this purpose.

Very truly yours,

O. C. MERRILL, *Executive Secretary.*

The proposed legislation requires the usual payment and contains all the safeguards to protect the public interest as to mineral and water power as well as to the future use of the land for public-park purposes.

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